

#### LITTLE LEVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

#### ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLE LEVER

FOR THE YEAR



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WM. MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLE LEVER FOR THE YEAR 1958.

### To the Chairman and Members of the Little Lever Urban District Council:

I have pleasure in submitting for your approval, my report as Medical Officer of Health, on the health and sanitary conditions of Little Lever, during the year ended December 31st, 1958.

#### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

The area of the township is 808 acres. The estimated population is 4,730, compared with 4,791 in the 1951 census. There are 1,724 inhabited houses in the district as against 1,721 in 1957. This gives a rate of approximately three persons per house. The rateable value of the district is £35,682 and the sum raised by a penny rate is approximately £138.

Social conditions are reasonably good, and there is no great amount of unemployment. The district is mainly industrial in character, the chief industries being cotton weaving, paper making, ebonite and plastics manufacturing, chemical manufacturing, pre-cast concrete goods making, brick making and dairy farming.

#### Births

The number of live births registered in 1958 was 89 as against 75 in 1957. This figure is made up of 49 males and 40 females. There were three female illegitimate births. The birth rate is 19.7 per 1,000 of population, as against 16.6 in 1957 and a mean rate of 17.2 for the previous five years. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1958 was 16.4.

#### Deaths

The number of deaths from all causes in 1958 was 48. This number comprises 31 males and 17 females.

This is a decrease of 25 on the figure for 1957. The death rate is 11.8 per 1,000 of population, as against 18.1 for 1957, and a mean rate of 14.8 for the previous five years. The death rate for England and Wales in 1958 was 11.7. The average age at death was 59.6 years for males and 72.6 years for females.

#### Still-births

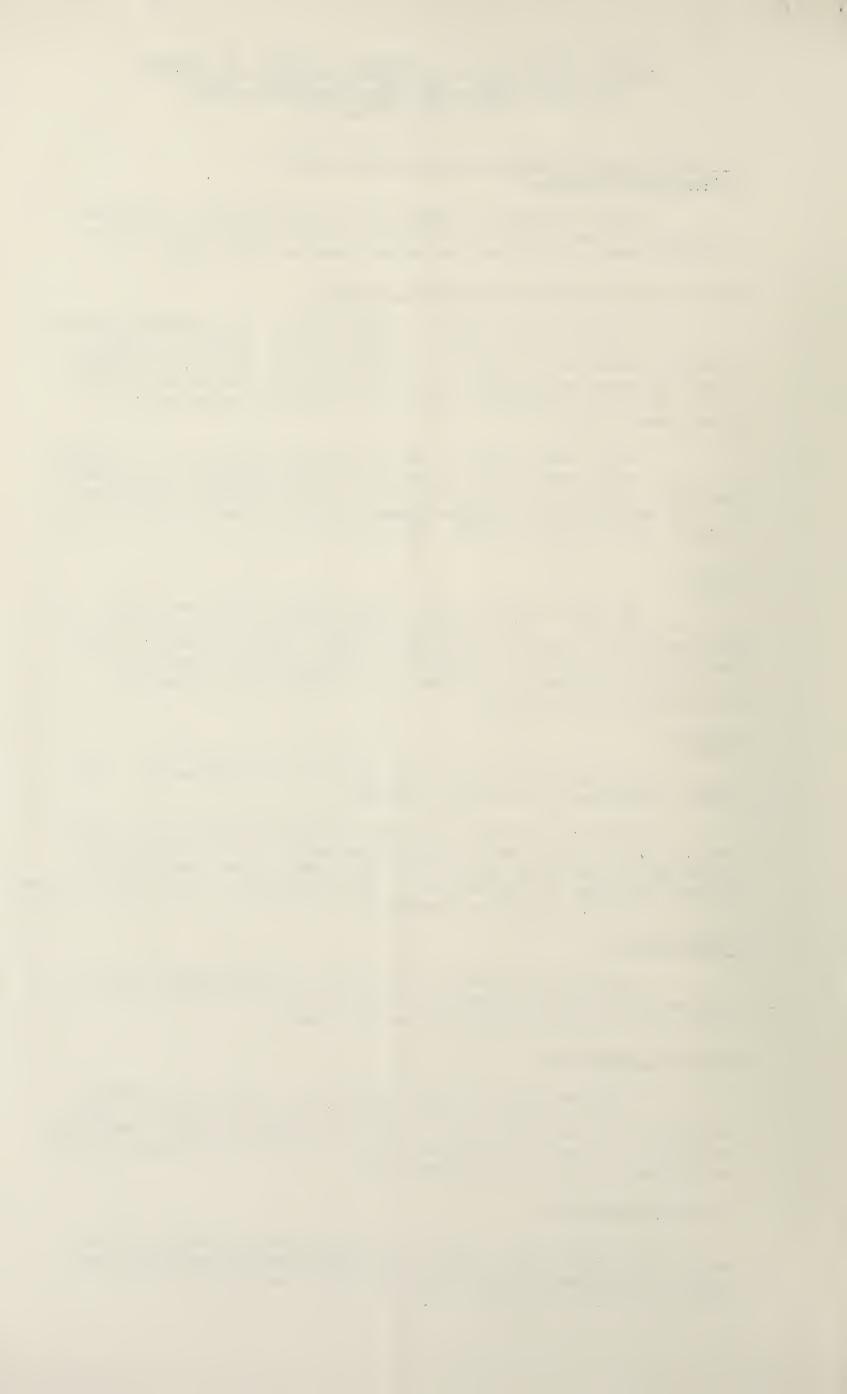
There was one female still-birth in 1958, giving a rate of ll.l per 1,000 of total births, compared with a Nil rate in 1957, and a mean rate of 21.4 for the previous five years.

#### Infantile Mortality

There were no deaths of children under the age of one year, in 1958, as against three in 1957. This gives a Nil rate for 1958, compared with a rate of 40 per 1,000 of live births in 1957, and a mean rate of 29 for the previous five years. The Infantile Mortality rate for England and Wales in 1958 was 22.5.

#### Neo-natal Mortality

As there were no deaths of children under the age of one year in 1958, this gives a Nil rate, compared with a rate of 27 per 1,000 of live births in 1957. The Neo-natal mortality rate for England and Wales in 1958 was 16.2.



#### Maternal Mortality

Once again there were no maternal deaths in 1958, thus giving a Nil rate per 1,000 of total births, the same as in 1957, and a mean rate of 0.64 for the previous five years. The Maternal Mortality rate for England and Wales in 1958, was 0.43.

#### Midwifery Services

There are no midwives resident in the district, but there are three midwives on the list of midwives engaged by the Lancashire County Council. All three reside in Farnworth and are available for cases in Little Lever. They are easily accessible, as each is on the telephone and has a car. The service provided by them has been completely satisfactory, and there have been no grounds for complaint.

As in previous years, many cases have been admitted to the Bolton and District General Hospital, and to Maternity Homes outside the district, but a fair number of confinements have been conducted in the homes of the patients.

#### General Provision of Health Services in the District

Clinics and Treatment Centres	Situation	Provided by
Maternity and Child Welfare	Little Lever	Lancashire C.C.
School Clinic	Little Lever	Lancashire C.C.

#### Infectious Diseases

The following table gives an analysis of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1958:--

Disease	Total Cases	Males	Females	Sent to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	4.	3	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	10	5	5	659	çon	-
Measles	1	0.7	1			-
Acute Pneumonia	1	1	cos	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	2		2	-	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis	4	2	2	4	1	1
Totals:	22	11	11	5	2	2

Sex and Age incidence in Infectious Diseases

see next page.

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Respiratory Tuberculosis	<u>t</u> ±1		1	i	١	ì	~-1	ı	ŝ	» ľ	rl		2
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ling	<u>ب</u>		1	1	1	1	~~I	1	1	r-l	î	1	2
Food	M		1	1	ŧ	ı	1	ı	Q	1	1	1	
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Acute Pneumonia	M.		ı	:	1	1	ı	ı	1	1	М	and the second s	rI
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Age Periods in years		Under 1	<b>1</b>	2	1 m	4 -	1	10 -	15 -	25 -	45 -	65 and over	Totals:



#### Tuberculosis

#### New Cases and Mortality during 1958

Age Periods	New Cases Respiratory Non-Respiratory				Deaths Respiratory Non-Respirato			
Years	Males	Females	Males	Females		Females		
Under 1								
1 - 2	-	609	60%	<b>€</b> Adm	-	guid	-	MEDEL
2 - 5	_	gro	67	-	Chica	***	-	
5 - 10	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	46.0	NICE	-	-
15 - 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	ee 1
20 - 25	-	war	-	atica	-	_	-	-
25 - 35	auri	çsak	-	-		-	-	gode
35 - 45	-	-	qian	-	-	at the	400	40.00
45 <b>-</b> 55	-	608	46/509	***	gath	-	-	-
55 - 65	<b>6</b> 0.09	1	-	-	-	-	-	
Over 65	1	68.Adm	£100	-	1	ni.de	403	-
Totals:	2	2		_	1	_	_	_

At the end of 1958, the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register was 33, comprising 27 Respiratory Cases and 6 Non-Respiratory Cases.

The death rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System in 1958 was 0.21 per 1,000 of population, compared with a Nil rate in 1957, and a mean rate of 0.18 for the previous five years. The death rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System for England and Wales in 1958 was 0.09 per 1,000 of population.

#### Causes of Death

The following table shows the deaths from all causes in 1958.

Disease causing death Respiratory Tuberculosis	Males	Females	Total	
Syphilitic Disease	1		1	
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1		1	
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung	1	_	1	
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	800	1	1	
Other Malignant and				
Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	2	4	
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	1	7	
Coronary Disease, Angina	7	2	9	
Other Heart Disease	4	6	10	
Other Circulatory Disease	_	1	1	
Pneumonia	1	_	1	
Bronchitis	3	1	4	
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	_	1	1	
Other Defined and ill-defined diseases	1	2	3	
Totals carried forward:	28	17	45	

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#### Causes of Death (Continued)

Disease causing death	Males	Females	Total	
Totals brough	t forward	: 28	17	45
Motor Vehicle Accidents All other accidents Suicide		1 1 1	e.e.	1 1 1
	Totals:	31	17	48

There were seven deaths from Cancer in 1958, compared with one in 1957. This gives a death rate of 1.47 per 1,000 of population as against 0.21 in 1957, and a mean rate of 1.57 for the previous five years.

The death rate from Cancer in England and Wales in 1958 was 2.12 per 1,000 of population.

#### Ophthalmia Neonatorum

As in 1957, no cases of this disease were notified during 1958.

#### District Nursing

There is one District Nurse resident in the district. Nurse Jackson has again carried out her duties as District Nurse in a most efficient manner. She brings a most sympathetic and understanding mind to her work and is always willing and cheerful. The sick and aged have received conscientious treatment and great kindness from her. She has closely identified herself with the community life of the district and has done a great deal of voluntary work in addition to her official duties.

The Home Help Service functioning in the district has again been of immense help. The members of this Service have been a great comfort to the sick and aged people and have co-operated very closely with the District Nurse. Their work has been greatly appreciated by the majority, but there are still a few persons who expect too much and are not sufficiently co-operative.

#### Old People's Welfare Committee

During the year, this Committee has again done splendid work. The Officials and Members are very been on the work and have organised many efforts to raise money for financing the services provided. The Committee Meetings are very well attended and there is never any lack of volunteers when they are required. As a result of the sustained effort, the financial state is very good.

The Chiropody Service has again been a great help to the old people and has been fully appreciated. Christmas Dinners were again provided, and portions of potted meat were distributed before the New Year. Outings were arranged by private cars, film shows in the homes were given by the Chairman, with light refreshments served by members of the Committee. Concerts were held, and an outing by coaches to the seaside was arranged. Periodical visiting has been done by members of the Committee, and near the end of the year, plans were being made to start a Meals on Wheels Service in 1959. The Committee derive great pleasure from their work, and the old people, for their part, have fully appreciated what has been done for them, and now derive great satisfaction from the knowledge that somebody is interested in their lives and problems.



#### Hospital and Ambulance Services

The district is very well served in the matter of hospital accommodation, and when urgent cases need admitting to hospital, no difficulties are found. There is still a great problem with regard to aged and chronically sick persons, as the shortage of beds and of nursing staff make it almost impossible to get admission of the aged and chronically sick.

The ambulance service has once again been very satisfactory and there have been no complaints of any consequence. Urgent cases are always dealt with in a most expeditious manner, and the staff of the ambulance service have been most courteous and have co-operated with the medical practitioners in a most efficient manner.

#### Adoptive Acts in Force

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1890, Part 4
Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1907, Parts 2 & 4
Public Health Acts, 1925, Part 2 (Except Sections 22 & 25)
Private Street Works Act, 1892

#### Sanitary Accommodation

The types of sanitary accommodation, with the numbers of each type, at the end of 1958, were as follows:--

Privy Middens2
Closets attached to these middens3
Waste water closets31
Fresh water closets2,039
Moveable dustbins
Number of houses on water carriage
system,738

During 1958, twelve waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets.

#### Sanitary Inspections

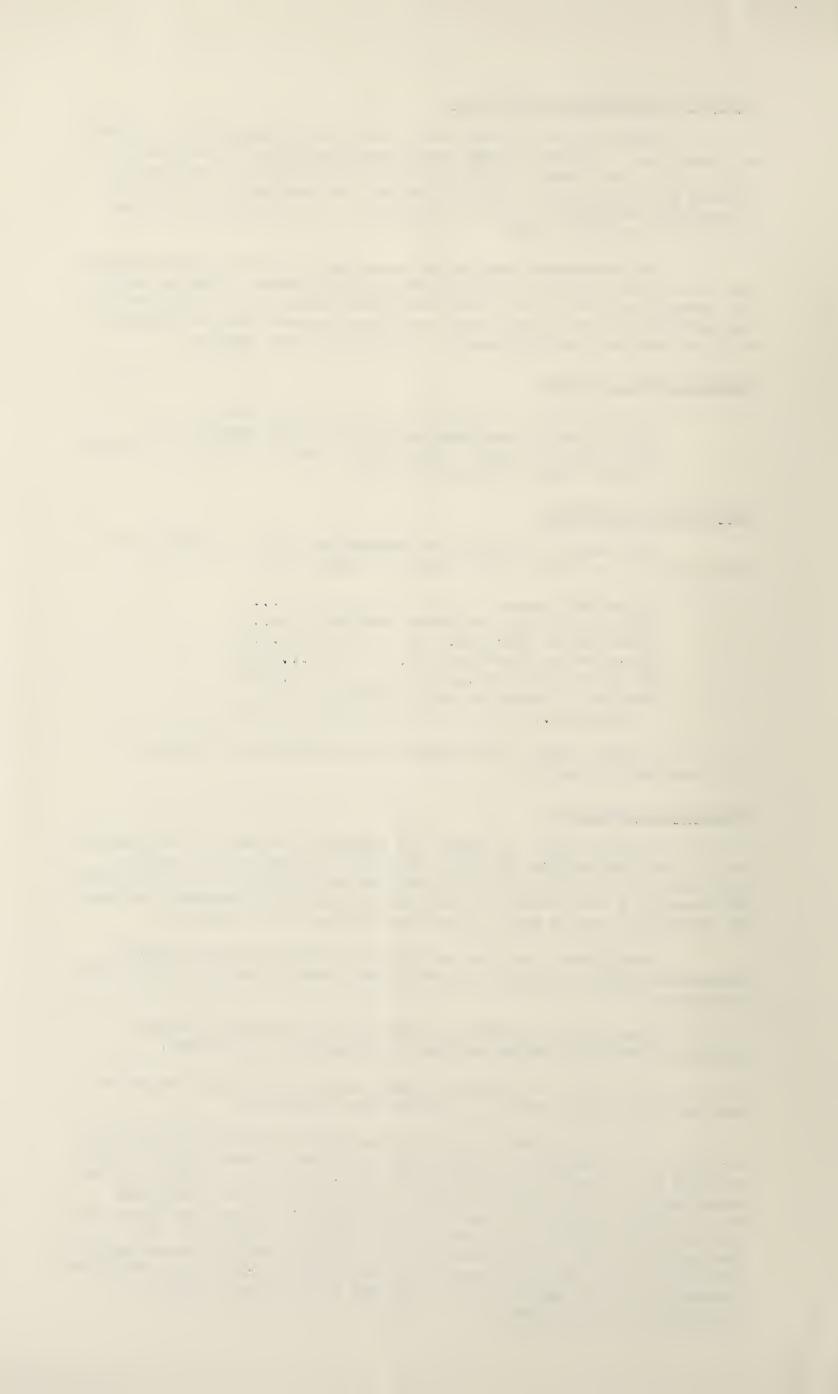
During 1958, the number of premises visited for the purpose of sanitary inspections was 200, involving a total of 300 visits. As a result of these visits, 160 defects or nuisances were discovered. Of these, 113 were abated through the issuing of 22 informal notices. No statutory notices and no legal proceedings were required.

Bakehouses, dairies and cowsheds have been periodically inspected during the year, and have been found to be in satisfactory condition.

There are four dairy farms in the district. The milk produced from these farms has been satisfactory in quality.

Factories and workshops have been periodically inspected and have been found to be in satisfactory condition.

Food shops have also been visited and inspected from time to time. The standard of hygiene in the shops is much higher than it used to be, and owners and employees are much more careful in the handling and display of foodstuffs. Two cases of food poisoning were notified during the year but investigation showed that they were due to eating tinned peas from a tin which had a fault in the sealing. The two people affected were a mother and her young daughter. The mother admitted that there was a bad smell from the tin, when she opened it, but in spite of this, she had no more sense than to cook and eat the contents.



#### Sanitary Inspections (Continued)

Model Byelaws for Food Hygiene have been adopted and notices to shops and canteens have been issued in order to maintain a high standard of hygiene.

#### Water Supply

The water supply is from the Irwell Valley Water Board's mains, and is constant. All houses are directly connected, the number of houses with a piped supply being 1,738.

During 1958, 45 bacteriological examinations of the raw water were made and all were found to be unsatisfactory without treatment. Eleven chemical examinations of the raw water were made and all were unsatisfactory. In addition, 90 bacteriological examinations, and 22 chemical examinations of the water going into supply after suitable treatment, and all were satisfactory.

The water supply is obtained from reservoirs into which upland surface water flows. All supplies are chlorinated, and any water displaying a plumbo-solvent action is lime treated. The water supply is satisfactory on the whole, but pressure in certain parts of the district is not as good at times as it should be.

No extensions of the mains, were carried out during the year.

#### Sewage and Refuse Disposal

The arrangements for sewage disposal again worked satisfactorily during the year. The sewage is treated by screening, sedimentation and filtration. No extensions to the sewage works were carried out during 1958. The Council are members of the Bolton and District Joint Sewerage Board, and this Board is completing a scheme which involves carrying the sewage from Little Lever into a common sewage disposal plant situated in the area of the Kearsley Urban District.

There are three houses in the district without sewerage systems owing to the impossibility of connecting them up to a sewer. Two new houses were connected up to the sewerage system during the year.

House refuse is collected by the Council's covered wagon. Collections are made each week in the winter months, and at intervals of ten days in the summer months. There are now only three privy closets in the district and these are cleared each fortnight. The cesspools in the district are kept in order by the owners. The refuse collected is disposed of by controlled tipping on the Council's tip.

The sewers and manholes have been inspected periodically. Sewers have been flushed and manholes cleaned and regular treatment has been carried out in order to keep rats under control.

#### Atmospheric Pollution

The Council is a member of the Manchester Clean Air Control Council. There are 15 factory chimneys in the district, and 10 observations on these were made during the year, but no formal action was needed. The time limit for the emission of black smoke is two minutes per half hour. Personal contact by the Public Health Inspector is made with works managers, and every effort is made to ensure that the emission of black smoke is kept down to a minimum.

As a result of the Clean Air Act, 1956, it is expected that the Bye-laws under Section 24 will be in operation in 1959.



#### Atmospheric Pollution (Continued)

Apart from black smoke, the district has been affected by acrid blue smoke from a foundry, by dust from heavily laden coal wagons passing through the district and by fine dust from a chemical works. An order has been submitted to the Ministry to establish a smokeless zone in the district. In all, 186 houses and other buildings will be involved, but industrial premises are to be exempted.

The district is far from being a health resort or a beauty spot, but any action taken to make the township a cleaner place to live in is to be commended.

#### Housing

During 1958, no houses were erected by the local authority, and only two were erected by other bodies or persons.

#### Number of houses owned by Local Authority

1.	Under 1919 Scheme113
2.	Under Housing Act, 1923
3.	Under Housing Act, 1924
4.	Erected during 1936 30
5.	Erected during 1937 38
6.	Erected during 1938 34
7.	Erected during 1947 14
8.	Erected during 1948 32
9.	Erected during 1949 44
10.	Erected during 1951 30
11.	Erected during 1952 22
12.	Erected during 1955 52
13.	Erected during 1956 58
14.	Erected during 1957 12

Total:612

Annual contract of the same of

#### Housing Conditions

The general standard of housing in the district is reasonably good and compares favourably will that of similar districts in the County. The commonest type is the four-roomed cottage containing two bedrooms. There are about 850 of this type, but of these some 180 are well below the general standard. The chief defects found in these houses are dampness, low ceilings, old age, absence of bathrooms and inside lavatories, poor water pressure, absence of hot water systems, and bad siting. Most of them are a hundred or more years old. The rents are low and no maintenance work has been carried out, and they have steadily deteriorated so that they are now only fit for demolition. Very many of them were listed for clearance before the 1939-45 war.

Although no houses were built by the local authority in 1958, work had been commenced on the building of 40 flats, some with one bedroom and some with two bedrooms, and in addition plans were prepared for a further 40 houses and 5 bungalows.

The number of people waiting for a new house is considerably less than it was, but there are still too many people living in sub-standard houses who in these days should be enjoying the comforts of a modern house. At long last, a definite policy appears to have been adopted with regard to slum clearance. The cost of slum clearance schemes may appear high, but when weighed in the balance with the improved health and happiness of the people rehoused, one must conclude that it is well worth it. Altogether, some 500 new dwellings of all types are needed to replace the old sub-standard houses.



#### Housing Conditions (Continued)

The chief requirements of the district are the clearance of old houses and their replacement by modern three and four-bedroom houses for families, and flats or bungalows for elderly persons. Although the number of waste water closets is less than in 1957, there are still too many and the remaining ones should be replaced by fresh water closets.

No cases of overcrowding were reported during the year but there are still several cases of young married couples being compelled to live with parents, and such cases cannot be dealt with quickly, owing to the fact that the new houses have to be allocated to people from clearance areas needing to be rehoused.

#### Town Planning

The County Council have delegated powers to the Local Authority in the matter of Town Planning affairs, and in all matters relating to Town Planning, there is very close co-operation between the local Council and the County Council.

#### Disinfection

Eight houses were disinfected during the year, after notifications of infectious diseases. The method used is Formaldehyde Vapour in the sealed room of the house. In addition, two Council houses and one other house were disinfected by spraying with insecticide.

#### National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951

One application for removal was made in 1958, under Section 47. The application was in respect of an elderly male living alone in filthy conditions. An order was granted for a period of three months and the man was removed to a hospital.

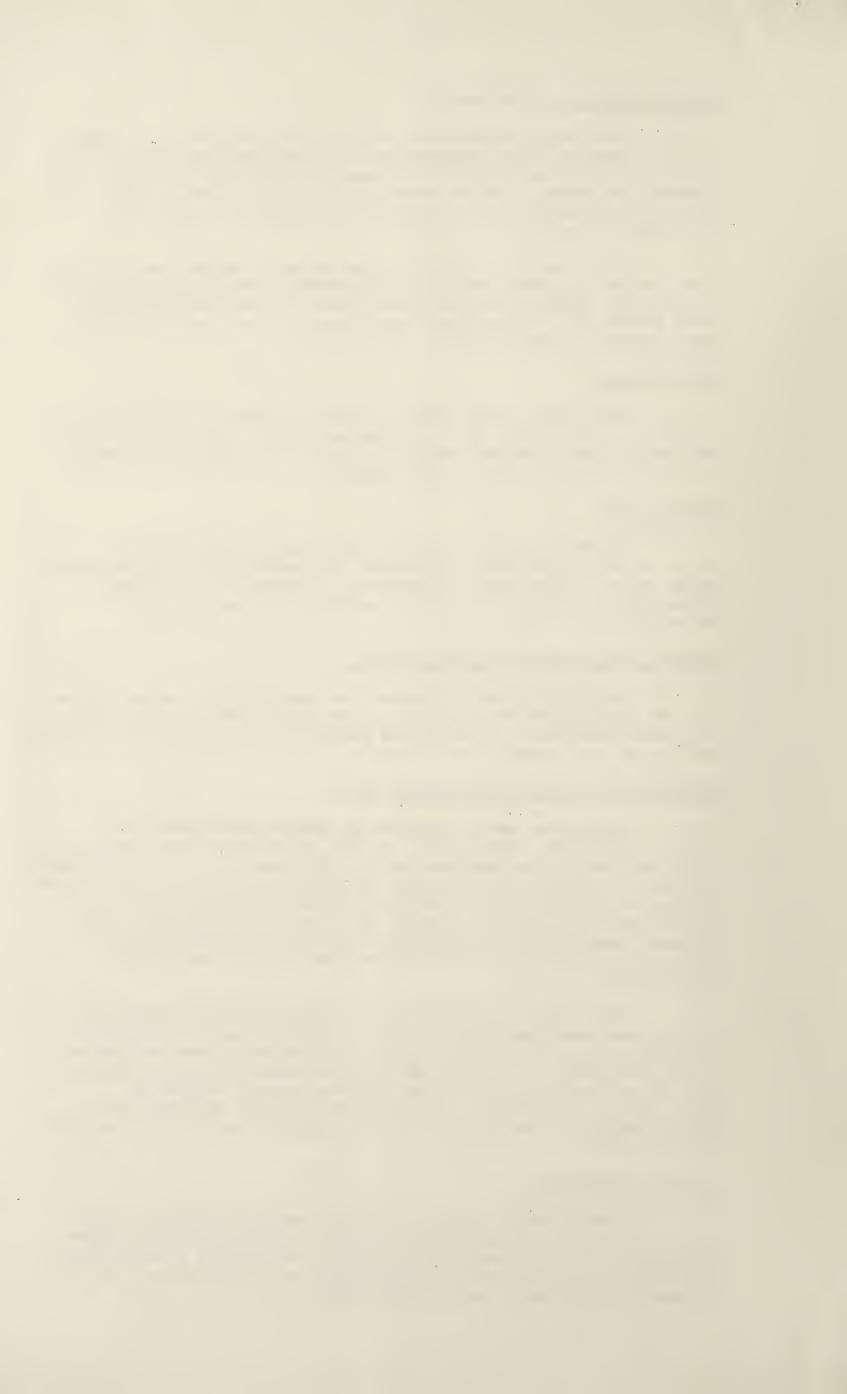
#### Vaccination and Diphtheria Immunisation

During the year, immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough were carried out. In all, 78 children under the age of fifteen years were immunised against Diphtheria and 77 children under the age of fifteen years were immunised against whooping cough. These figures are slightly better than the figures for 1957, but not all parents take the trouble to ensure that their children receive the necessary immunisation. Their lack of interest is greatly to be deplored as the efficacy to these immunisations has been proved conclusively.

Once again, the number of vaccinations against Small-pox in 1958, was regrettably low. Only 19 children under the age of one year, and one child under the age of five years were vaccinated. As the total number of births was 89, this means that approximately only 21% of the total live births were vaccinated, whereas in 1957, 37% were vaccinated. This proportion is far too small and parents ought very seriously to review their attitude to the question of vaccination.

#### General Observations

From a health point of view, the year 1958 was very good. There was practically no infectious disease notified, but in common with the rest of the country, the district was visited by an epidemic of the Asian Influenza which affected most of the population, but fortunately produced no serious after-effects.



#### General Observations (Continued)

The number of live births was the largest since 1948, and the number of deaths was the lowest since 1941. In consequence the birth-rate is much higher than the rate for England and Wales, whilst the death-rate is almost the same as that for England and Wales.

The Infantile, Neo-Natal and Maternal Mortality rates are again all very satisfactory being Nil in each case.

There was a sharp increase in the deaths from Cancer, but even so, the death-rate from Cancer for this district is less than the rate for England and Wales, but the death-rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System is rather higher than the rate for England and Wales.

Despite the fact that no new houses were built by the Local Authority in 1958, good progress had been made by the end of the year in the building of flats to the number of 40, and plans had been prepared for the building of more houses and bungalows. The housing problem is now much easier, but a great deal has still to be done in the replacing of old houses with modern houses, and vision and determination will be needed in order to solve this problem.

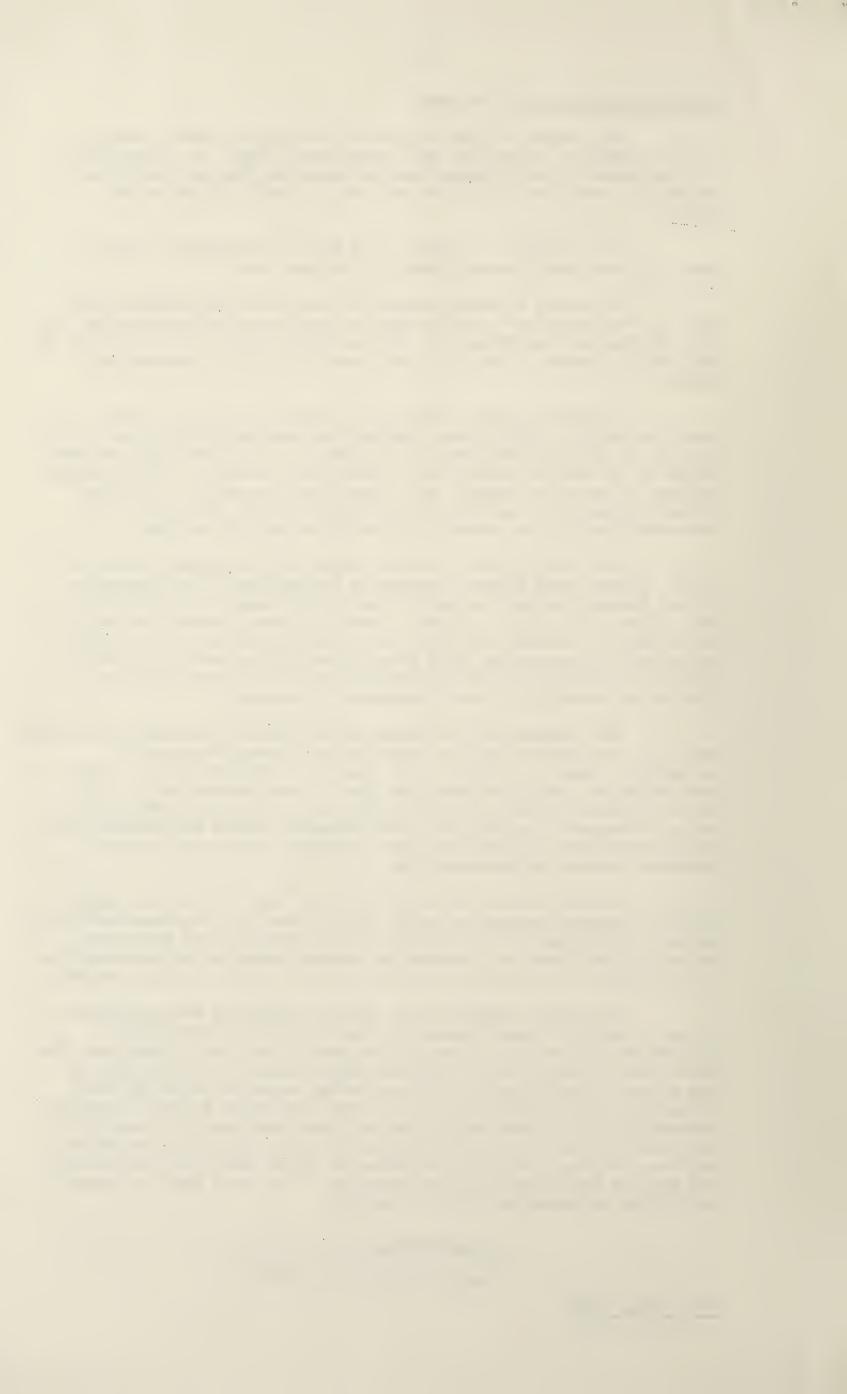
The bowling green, tennis courts and playgrounds provided by the Council have again been greatly appreciated by the majority of the inhabitants but one has to record with regret once more the anti-social activities of a small number of young persons who seem to be completely lacking in a sense of responsibility and civic pride. It is very disheartening for a Council which is constantly trying to improve the district to be confronted from time to time with the destruction wrought by these irresponsible persons.

The lighting of the roads in the district has been materially improved, and every effort has been made to reduce atmospheric pollution. There is, however, one aspect of communal life to which more attention should be drawn and that is the despositing of litter in the streets. Despite the fact that many litter bins have been set up throughout the district, the streets at times are disgracefully untidy with 'bus tickets, ice cream wrappers, and various other wrappers dropped indiscriminately.

The new School Clinic provided at long last by the County Council commenced operations early in the year in a most unostentatious manner and withnone of the publicity usually associated with such matters. The Clinic is, however, a handsome addition to the amenities of the district and has already proved that it was very much needed.

Much still remains to be done in improving the appearance of the district. Slum clearance, with vision as to what shall replace the old houses, is one of the main tasks to be taken on. The waste water closets are an ugly anachronism and must be eradicated. The public generally need to have a better sense of pride in their township and the young people need to be encouraged to show a greater responsibility for what will later be their heritage. The members of the Council carry great responsibilities and their duties are often onerous, but they are fully conscious of their office as Councillors and give of their best for the community. The least they can expect is willing co-operation from the public.

WM. MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B. Medical Officer of Health



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLE LEVER, FOR THE YEAR 1958, ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

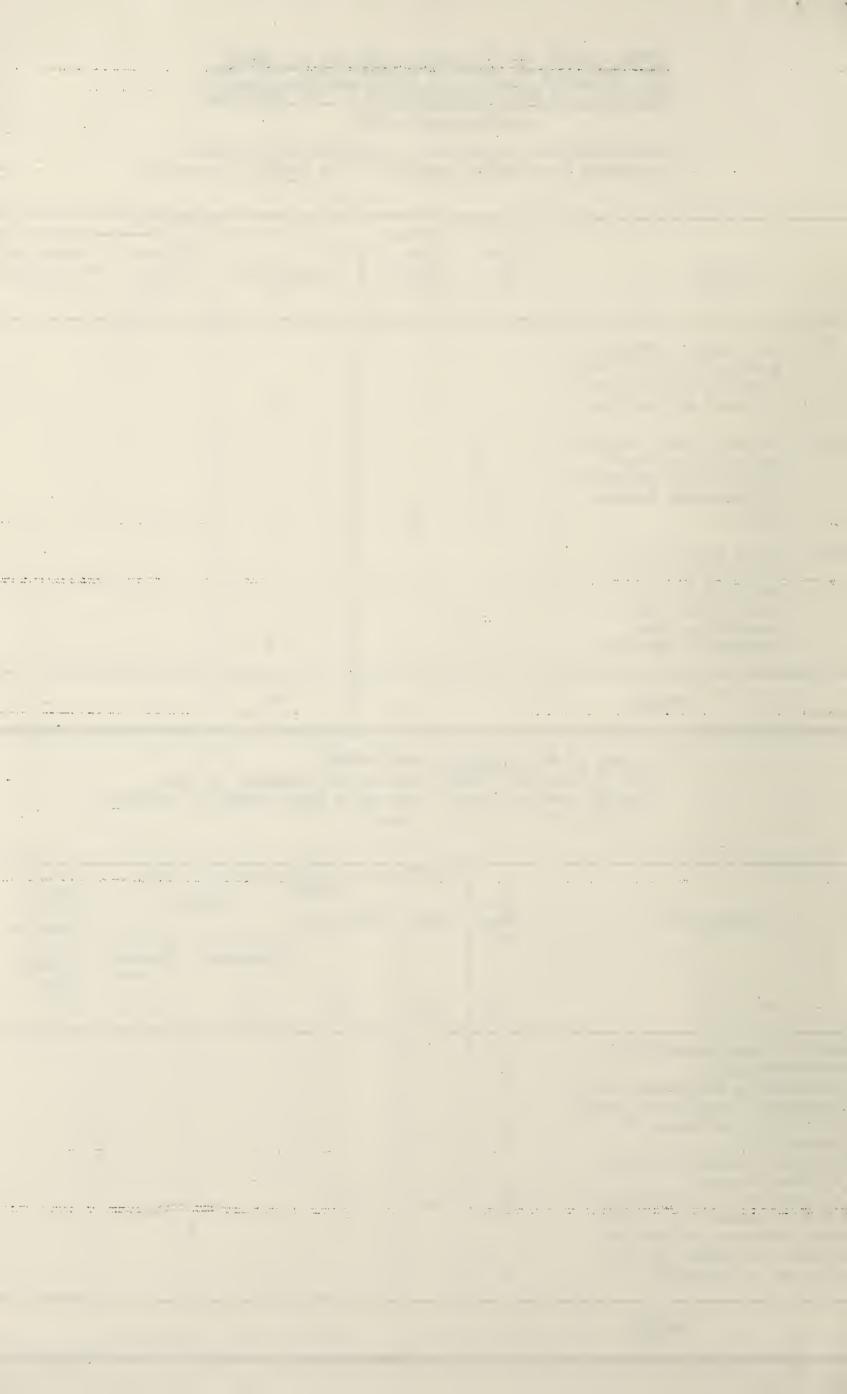
1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

		M/c	Number	Number of				
	Premises (1)	Line No. (2)	on Register (3)	Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)		
(i)	Factories in which Sections 0,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	9	17	***			
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	20	9	2			
(iii)	Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	3	5	1		-		
	TOTAL:	-	34	27	2	-		

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two,
three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned
as two, three or more 'cases').

No. of cases in which defects were

Particulars (1)	M/c Line No.	Found (3)	Remedied  (4)	Reference To H.M. Inspector	rred By H.M.	cases where Prosecutions instituted. (7)
Want of Cleanliness(S.1) Overcrowding(S.2) Unreasonable Temperature(S.3) Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) Ineffective drainage to floors (S.6) Sanitary Conveniences(S.7) (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or defective (c) Not separate for sexes Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to Outwork).	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	1	1			
TOTAL:	60	2	2	-	-	



#### PART VIII OF THE ACT

## OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

	and comments to the	Sect	ion 1 <b>1</b> 0		Section 111	,	
Nature of Work	M/c Line No.	No. of Outworkers in August list reqd. by Section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of Default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of Instances of work in unwhole- some premises  (6)	Notices (7)	© Prosecutions
			(4)	())	(0)	(1)	(0)
Wearing (Making etc. Apparel (Cleaning & (Washing) Household linen Lace, lace curtains and nets. Curtains & furniture Hangings Furniture & upholstery Electro-plate File making Brass & brass articeles. Fur pulling Iron & steel cables and chains Iron & steel anchors and grapnels Cart gear Locks, latches & keys Umbrellas etc. Artificial flowers Nets, other than wire nets. Tents Sacks Racquets & tennis balls Paper Bags The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper. Brush making Pea picking Feather sorting Carding etc.of buttons etc. Stuffed toys Basket making Chocolates & sweet- meats Cosaques, Christmas Crackers, Christmas	34 35 36 37						
TOTAL:	70	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
				•			

Signature: W. MOTTERSHEAD

Medical Officer of Health.

